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2803 VALLEY DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22302

July 23, 1989

Terre Haute Library
Terre Haute, Indiana

Dear Sir or Madam,

My great-grandfather, James Gordon Burt, a Universalist minister, died in Terre Haute on 13 February 1884.

I would like to have any newspaper obituary notice that might have appeared in a local paper. Could you check this possibility and make a copy for me? I enclose a check for copying costs.

Thank you for this service. I am

Yours sincerely,

Katherine B. McKitterick

Katherine B. McKitterick
(Mrs. Nathaniel McKitterick)

2803 VALLEY DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22302

August 21, 1989

Vigo County Public Library
One Library Square
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for your generous and thorough work tracing the life and work of James G. Burt in Terre Haute.

I wish I could give you more information about how he came to Terre Haute or about his connections with the Universalist church. It is only very recently that we have beon able to discover that he was born in Woodstock, Conn., son of Lloyd Bowers Burt who was probably a poor farmer.

The obituaries were very interesting and shed light on his son Benjamin, my grandfather, who was awarded that newfangled German degree, a PhD, in Philosophy, taught at the University o;f Michigan, but spent most of his life running the tiny railroad station in Superior, Nebraska.

The Barbara Burt that your Nancy Sherill corresponded with is my niece. She has been the most determined genealogist in the family.

Thanks again for all your help,

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Burt McKitterick

(Mrs. Nathaniel McKitterick)

Burt
Family

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mrs. Katherine B. McKitterick
2803 Valley Drive
Alexandria VA 22302

August 9, 1989

Thanks for the five dollar check. I am enclosing numerous photocopies that trace James G. Burt's presence in Terre Haute more than a century ago. These include two obituaries (as you requested).

I have also tried to include as much Universalist church history as I could since J.G. Burt was a Universalist minister here.

I am wondering how much you might know from family tradition or otherwise about Rev. Burt's church organizational activities. As a Unitarian-Universalist I frequently am asked about early Universalist activities in Terre Haute. Perhaps you could write some information about him and how he came to Terre Haute. I could then make a file and include it among our other files on local church history.

I hope you will find that the other photocopies are helpful. The obituary of Maria Sophia Fuller Robbins Burt is very interesting and informative as is the information about Horace Greely Burt. The chapel at Highland Lawn Cemetery, where his funeral services were held, has been restored and is very beautiful.

I have also included numerous pages from old Terre Haute city directories. I was in the Universalist Church that once stood at 119 N. 8th. It had a large auditorium with a balcony. It was the Terre Haute Public Library in the late 1890s. By 1973 the building had been vacated and was being torn down to make way for the large Hulman Center.

Rev. Burt lived in various houses during his years in Terre Haute. Some of them are still standing though mostly remodeled. I remember the house at 1410 S. 6th where your great-grandfather lived in 1877. He must have built it because the house bore the date "1877" in the gable ends. About 1890 Washington Ave. Presbyterian Church was built at 1400 S. 6th and 1410 became the parsonage. About 1977 when it was barely a century old the Presbyterians had it torn down. It was a good house, nicely desgined.

Incidentally, in June the library received a requestfor information on James G. Burt from Barbara Burt, 95 Fairmont St., Arlington MA 02174. Do you know her? I am enclosing a copy of her letter and Nancy Sherrill's reply.

David N. Lewis

David N. Lewis

Special Collections Clerk

Burt Family

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Donald C. Stewart
Department of English
Denison Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan KS 66506

October 14, 1987

David Lewis is on vacation, so I am finishing up the research he began for you. Our index to the burials in Woodlawn Cemetery lists a W. W. Burt who was buried 14 April 1882. When we checked the newspapers for that date, we found that Wadsworth W. Burt had indeed died in Battle Creek MI. A copy of the news item is enclosed. The James G. and Maria S. Burt buried in Woodlawn were probably Wadsworth's parents. However, no Frances Burt is listed among the Woodlawn burials.

Benjamin Burt was listed in the Terre Haute city directories from 1876 through 1878. I wonder if the Wm. W. Burt listed at the same address might really have been Wadsworth. Neither Benjamin nor Wadsworth Burt were listed in the directories from 1880 through 1882, so they were probably in Michigan during that time. In 1883 Fanny Burt was listed as the widow of Wadsworth; her address was the same as that of Harvey D. Scott. She was not listed after 1888; Harvey D. Scott was not listed in the 1887 or 1888 directories. Benjamin Burt was not listed from 1887 through 1900. Copies from the city directories are enclosed.

A history of Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University) briefly mentions Benjamin and Wadsworth Burt, so I am enclosing a copy.

Please send the library $2.45 for the copies and postage.

Nancy Sherrill

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

13 microfilm prints
2 xerox

W. W. Burt, 29, died 4-14-1882
Frances, his wife, is not
buried at Woodlawn as was
her husband unless she
remarried. (Checked both
volumes of Larsen)

KSU
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of English

Denison Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
913-532-6716

October 2, 1987

David N. Lewis
Special Collections Clerk
Vigo County Public Library
One Library Square
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I appreciate the material you sent me recently on R.W. Thompson. I feel a bit strange writing a check for twenty cents, though, so could I ask one more favor and then pay the library for both jobs? I would like xeroxed copies of certain pages from the Terre Haute City Directory from 1878-1887. Here is what I am trying to determine. On June 24, 1878, Frances Scott and Wadsworth Burt were married. Sometime in 1887, Harvey D. Scott and his wife left Terre Haute for California. I have been led to believe that Wadsworth Burt died rather early in his marriage and that his wife, Francis Scott Burt, rejoined her father and mother and moved with them to California. She would also have been accompanied by her daughter, Ethel.

Now, at what point between 1878 and 1887, does the directory show Frances Scott and Wadsworth Burt no longer living at a particular address? Do you have obituaries for that period and could thus definitely pin down the fact that Wadsworth Burt died? There is always the possibility that he did not die but simply left his wife and daughter. I would like to establish the fact that Frances Scott Burt, some years after her marriage did return to the home of her parents. I would also like to find out what, indeed, happened to Wadsworth Burt.

One other matter. Wadsworth Burt's brother, Benjamin Burt, apparently left Terre Haute some time in the early 1870s to attend the University of Michigan where he graduated first in his class. He then returned to Terre Haute and apparently taught at the Normal School for several years. I can't fill all the gaps, but I know that he returned to Michigan as a faculty member in 1881 and taught in the Department of English until 1887. Now, do you have any records on Ben Burt which indicate that he once again returned to Terre Haute in 1887 and perhaps took up another vocation? Sometimes the city directory indicates what the vocation is. I would be curious to know.

1879 - No Wadsworth Burt but a
W W Burt, teacher, res 1305 S. 6th

1880-81 No Burts but Harvey D. Scott lived at 1305 S 6th

1882 No Wadsworth Burt and " " " " " 660 Chestnut

1883 Fannie S. (wid Wadsworth) res 800 S. Center

1884 " " (wid of Wadsworth W.) teacher training school, res 418 N Center

same res as Harvey D. Scott

1885 Fannie S. + Harvey D. Scott - same as 1884

No 1886

1887 Fannie S. Burt (wid Wadsworth W.) teacher Normal School, res 223 N 5th

No Harvey Scott

1888 Fannie, teacher N.S. bds. 312 N. 6th No Harvey Scott

1889 - No Fannie Burt

1890-91 " " "

1892 " " "

1894 " " "

1896-97 " " " or H D Scott

1898 " " " " " "

1900 " " " " " "

1901 " " "

1902 " " "

1903 " " "

1904 " " "

1906 " " "

1907 " " "

1908 " " "

1910 " " "

1912-13 " " "

1915-16 " " "

1918 " " "

1920 " " "

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913-532-6716

I will, of course, appreciate anything you turn up. Xerox whatever would answer my questions, and then I can pay the whole bill, the twenty cents I already owe and the other charges for this new material.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Stewart
Donald C. Stewart

* No obit. when the roll ended with Apr. 17, 1882.

Home News I.N. Evening Gazette Apr. 15, 1882 p. 2

"Wadsworth W. Burt, son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Burt, died at Battle Creek, Michigan, on the 12th ",

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Department of English

Denison Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
913-532-6716

November 4, 1987

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian
Vigo County Public Library
One Library Square
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

Dear Ms. Sherrill:

Enclosed please find my check for the xeroxing and postage I owe you. I do appreciate the information you have sent me, particularly the last materials confirming the death of Wadsworth Burt. The information on his death at Battle Creek tied in with some other material I have in a most interesting way. His brother was teaching at Michigan at the time, and his brother-in-law, Fred Scott, was a student there, earning part of his keep by summer work at the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Makes me wonder if there was some sort of connection between people in Terre Haute and Dr. Kellogg, the superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium. It was quite a thriving place in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Again, thanks for your help. If I run into other difficulties, I may call on you again. I have, however, put together as much of the Terre Haute background as I think I will be able to get short of coming there and reading the papers for a period of twenty years, something I may not be able to do.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Stewart

Donald C. Stewart

Burt Family

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Donald C. Stewart
Department of English
Kansas State University
Denison Hall
Manhattan KS 66506

September 4, 1990

I found Wm. W. Burt listed in the Terre Haute city directories through the 1879-80 directory. After that James G. was the only Burt listed. Wm. W. was not listed in the Soundex of the 1880 Indiana census; I checked the names W.W., Wadsworth, and William. The 1880 Soundex only included families with children age ten or younger, so the fact that he was not in the Soundex doesn't necessarily mean that he was not on the census.

Indiana did not begin recording births until 1882 and did not keep accurate records for several years thereafter. The birth of Ethel Burt was not listed in the W.P.A. index to Vigo county birth records from 1882 to 1920. That could mean that she was born earlier or born outside Vigo county or just missed by the county health office.

Our McKeen family file contains photocopied and undated obituaries of Maria Sophia Burt and W.W. Burt. According to the obituaries, W.W. died in Battle Creek MI on 12 April 1882, and Maria died in Ann Arbor MI 22 March 1880, having gone there to visit her twin sons. I tried to find W.W.'s original obituary in one of the Terre Haute newspapers. It was not in the Weekly Gazette or the Saturday Evening Mail during April 1882. I did find a brief death notice in the 14 April 1882 Daily Express which indicated that the funeral would be held at the home of his wife's parents. It's possible that the longer obituary was written some time after W.W.'s death.

It appears that W.W. moved to Michigan sometime in 1879 as Maria's obituary says that she had gone there "last autumn".

Please send the library $1.15 for copies and postage.

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

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Denison Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
913-532-6716

Burt - Not in 1880 Soundex
B 630

August 23, 1990

not listed 1980-81

6 short prints
1 xerox

postage .45

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian
Vigo County Public Library
One Library Square
Terre Haute, Indiana 47807

Dear Ms. Sherrill:

Some years ago I wrote to you requesting information on Harvey D. Scott, father of Fred Newton Scott, about whom I am writing a book. F. N. Scott was born and grew up in Terre Haute, but he was educated at the University of Michigan and had a long and extremely distinguished career there as Professsor of English and Head of the Department of Rhetoric which he created.

I have just recently encountered a problem, however, which my resources have not been able to help me solve. It is this. Fred's sister, Fannie (Frances Electa), married William Wadsworth Burt on June 24, 1878 in Terre Haute. Mr. Burt lived only four years after his marriage. My records show that he died in April of 1882 and was buried in Terre Haute's Woodlawn Cemetery April 14, 1882. William Lynch's history of Indiana State University, however, tells me that the Burt brothers (Wadsworth had a brother, Benjamin, who went to Michigan, graduated with distinction, and even served on Michigan's English Department staff from 1881-87) left the Indiana Normal School in 1875 to pursue their educations elsewhere. Since Benjamin went to Ann Arbor, I presume that Wadsworth went with him. But what really intrigues me is the discovery just the other day that W. W. Burt, along with B. Burt, was one of the founders of Michigan's Choral Union. This meeting took place in 1880, two years after he was married. I assumed that he was living in Terre Haute.

Here, then, is what I would like to know. Do the Terre Haute city directories for 1878-82 show Wadsworth Burt and his wife living there? Or are they absent? Is just Fannie listed? I would very much appreciate having copies of those pages of the directories which might give me this information. If you can find any information which suggests that Wadsworth, either alone or with his family, went to Ann Arbor, I would be most interested in that.

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not in WPA Vital Co. Birth Records

A second question. Do you find a birth date for Ethel Burt, Wadsworth and Fannie's only daughter? Obviously, it has to be sometime between June 24, 1878 and April 14, 1882. I have followed Ethel to California with her mother, grandmother, and grandfather, and have even located a picture of her when she was a student at the University of California, but I have no record of her date of birth.

The Scott descendants regard Wadsworth as a sort of mysterious figure because they have so little information about him. I have now become much interested in the circumstances under which he married and in his relationship to Scott's sister. Scott was apparently on fairly cordial terms with Benjamin Burt, but he says very little about Wadsworth. I have to wonder why.

If you can help me, I will be most grateful. I will, of course, pay for necessary xeroxing.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Stewart

Donald C. Stewart
Professor, English

Burt Family

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Barbara Burt
95 Fairmont St.
Arlington, MA 02174

July ~~June~~ 9, 1989

I am enclosing research reports listing sources I checked for Burts and Ramsdells. The county histories only mention that James G. Burt was a minister of the Universalist church. However, his obituaries at least give the date and place of his birth. There is a death certificate for him on file at the Vigo County Health Dept., so perhaps that would have more information on him. There is some Burt information in the McKeen file as James G.'s daughter Ellen married Samuel McKeen. The McKeens were a very prominent (and wealthy) family.

The Ramsdells are something of a puzzle. I found the name spelled Ramsdall, Ransdell, Ransdall, and Ransell. I thought that these spellings were variations of one name, but when I checked the 1850 census I found that the oldest Ransdells were born in Virginia and the others in Indiana. In 1850 George Ransdell was age 39 and born in Indiana while Sophia Fuller was age 55 and born in Connecticut. George was probably not Sophia's brother as he was born about 1811 in Indiana and she did not come here until 1820. However, the 1850 census lists a Harriet Ramsdell from Connecticut living with Benjamin and Sophia Fuller. She must have been Sophia's sister or sister-in-law. There were several other people in the Fuller household whose names I did not copy. They were printers, carpenters, and cabinet makers, so maybe the Fullers lived in a rooming house.

Thanks for the $5.00.

Nancy Sherrill

Nancy Sherrill
Genealogy Librarian

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
One Library Square
Terre Haute IN 47807

DATE: _____

VIGO CO. LIBRARY RESEARCH REPORT

The item(s) circled below indicate the record(s) searched for the surnames of: Burt, James G.

in response to your request of 6-24-87.

(1.) Miscellaneous Card File:
Did not find James G. Found Henry Burt, an early resident of Springfield MA Journal of Amer. Genealogy vol 4 p 34-36 (over)

(2.) Surname File:
Did not find / Found McKeen Family File has obits of Maria Sophia Burt, W.W. Burt, & Horace Greely Burt

(3.) Vigo County, Indiana, Index of Names of Persons and of Firms (in the county histories)
Did not find _____ Found Burt, James G. (Rev) Beckwith p 132; Bradsby p 599, Condit p 89 - All entries about Univ. Church
Burt, Horace - Oakey p 154; Horace G. - Markle vol 2 p 87

4. Vigo County, Indiana, Marriage Licenses from 1818 to 1850:
Did not find _____ Found _____

5. W.P.A. Index to Marriage Record, Vigo County, 1840-1920:
Did not find _____ Found _____

(6.) W.P.A. Index to Death Record, Vigo County, 1882-1920:
Did not find _____ Found Burt, James G. - age 74 - d. 13 Feb. 1884 Terre Haute Book H 32 p 245

(7.) Cemetery Records of Vigo County, Including All Born Prior to 1830 That Lived to Maturity:
Did not find _____ Found Burt, James G. b. 21 July 1809 Woodstock Conn. d. 13 Feb 1884 & Mary S. b. 26 April 1816 d. 22 March 1880 Woodlawn Cemetery

8. Cemeteries, Vigo County, Indiana (4 vols.):
Did not find _____ Found _____

(9.) Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo County IN, Index of Burials Vol. 1 1839-1899 vol. 2 1900-March 1983:
Did not find _____ Found Burt, James G. age 74 2-17-1884 Maria S. age 63 3-25-1880

(10.) Census Index for the year 1850:
Did not find _____ Found Burt, James - Parke Co p 269

Other: (also check other side)
Terre Haute Evening Gazette Feb. 13, 1884 p 1 Funeral Notice
" " " " Feb. 14, 1884 p 4 obit
Terre Haute Express Feb 14, 1884 - obit

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
One Library Square
Terre Haute IN 47807

DATE: _____

VIGO CO. LIBRARY RESEARCH REPORT

The item(s) circled below indicate the record(s) searched for the surnames of: Ramsdell

in response to your request of 6-24-89.

(1.) Miscellaneous Card File:
Did not find ✓ Found _____

(2.) Surname File:
Did not find ✓ Found _____

3. Vigo County, Indiana, Index of Names of Persons and of Firms (in the county histories)
Did not find _____ Found Sent 6-30-89

(4.) Vigo County, Indiana, Marriage Licenses from 1818 to 1850:
Did not find Ramsdell Found Ransell, Ransdall

(5.) W.P.A. Index to Marriage Record, Vigo County, 1840-1920:
Did not find _____ Found Ramsdell, Ramsdall, Ransell

(6.) W.P.A. Index to Death Record, Vigo County, 1882-1920:
Did not find _____ Found vol 3 p 45 Ramsdal, Adam age 65 24 Aug 1894 Books H 36 p 62 & CH 45 p 45

(7.) Cemetery Records of Vigo County, Including All Born Prior to 1830 That Lived to Maturity:
Did not find _____ Found p 219 Ramsdell, Harriet E. dr 13 Nov 1868 age 61 y - Woodlawn Cemetery

(8.) Cemeteries, Vigo County, Indiana (4 vols.):
Did not find ✓ Found _____

(9.) Woodlawn Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo County IN, Index of Burials Vol. 1 1839-1899 vol. 2 1900-March 1983:
Did not find _____ Found vol 1 p 180 Ramsdale, Adam - age 65 buried 8-28-1894 & Ramsdell, Harriet - 61 - buried 11-12-1868
Vol 2 p 144 Ramsdell, Charles Edward - age 71 - buried 12-27-1928

(10.) Census Index for the year 1850:
Did not find _____ Found Ramsdall, George - Vigo Co p 189
" Phobe " " p 189
" Sanford " " " & 188

Other: (also check other side) Ransel, James - Vigo Co p 288
Ramsdall, William " " p 200
Ramsdall, Harriet " " p 236

#1 Burt, Horace G. - High place in his career Scrapbook 49 p 48
Resigns as pres. of Union Pacific RR Scrapbook 9 p 12
Tours Orient Scrapbook 9 p 43
Harriman Succeeds Burt Scrapbook 9 p 45
Death Scrapbook 163 p 48

Burt, John - Letters of a sergeant in War of 1812
Journal of Amer. Hist. vol 1 p 147 – 150

9 xerox .90 2.25 4.15
3 short prints .30 1.90 +1.25 today
7 long 1.05 4.15 5.40

95 Fairmont St.
Arlington, MA 02174

June 24, 1989

To: Nancy Sherrill

Thank you immensely for the generous research you were able to photocopy.

I knew my great great grandmother, Maria Burt, was unusual; my uncle has a Terre Haute newspaper clipping telling of her rejection of sidesaddles and riding horseback through TH ~~looked like a man~~!

I was intrigued about the identity of George Ramsdell, since I did not know Sophia Ramsdell Fuller might have a brother.

I am enclosing $5 to cover the 1.90 owed and hope that you might be of further assistence in finding more information on James G Burt, (1809-1884), husband of Maria, that might shed some light on his life in TH, and - of great interest to me and my Burt elders -, his New England background. His intractable silence if it were broken in Indiana would make my genealogical research less difficult (I know only his parents' names).

Also, if more information on the Ramsdells, Maria and/or Sophia and their ancestors was known, it would be greatly appreciated - although I know that might prove more difficult to research.

Thank you again for your helpfulness. My family will be very pleased with the results.

Sincerely,

James G. Burt + Maria m in Parke Co.

Barbara Burt

James G. buried Woodlawn 2-17-1884